

Minutes of the Meeting of St Thomas Parochial Church Council in St Thomas Church Vestry on Wednesday, 20th November 2019

The Meeting opened with prayers.

Present: The Rev'd Dr D Nixon (in the Chair), The Rev'd C Keay, The Rev'd S Cumming, Messrs. Baker, Le Fleming, Totterdell, Withers, Mesdames Bryant, Dauntton, Farmer, Thomas.

Apologies: Messrs. Morgan, Wright, Mrs Harris.

25th September

2019/34	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd May 2019 were read and approved as a true record after Mrs C Bryant was noted as absent from the meeting.</p> <p>Prop: Mr A Withers Sec: Mr P Baker <u>Carried:</u></p> <p>Action Points:</p> <p><u>2019/26 New Ideas/ Flower, Crib & Christmas Tree Festivals:</u> The people who, it was hoped, would be involved in the Flower Festival were not very enthusiastic and one of the ladies would be away for most of the summer. The church was not secure enough to hold a Crib Festival and there is no electricity supply for a Christmas Tree Festival. Fr David asked for ideas for other displays in the summer. Rev'd Sarah had heard of a presentation entitled 'Telling a Story' which was not dependant on a lot of work. Action:</p> <p><u>2019/26 New Ideas/Electric Car Charging Point:</u> Fr David had spoken to one of the providers of a charging point about installing a point for charging 2 cars. It would be a fast charge one and would cost in the region of £1,000-£5,000 depending on how much work is involved to connect to the electricity pole outside the car park. The rate of how much a charge would cost can be decided by us. We could recoup some of the outlay. Fr David has been in touch with someone in the Diocese who is involved with environmental issues to ask if a Grant is available. He is awaiting a reply. Action:</p> <p>The charging point would be placed where it is convenient for everyone. A discussion will be held when there is more information available.</p> <p><u>2019/26 New Ideas/Advent Quiet Day:</u> This will be on 14th December from 10am-1pm in the Methodist building. There will be quiet time and morning prayer not a Eucharist.</p> <p><u>2019/26 New Ideas/Fair Trade Tea & Coffee:</u> A coffee tasting session had been held and it was decided to buy Klipper coffee. A tea tasting session will follow later.</p> <p><u>2019/27 Treasurer's Report:</u> The bank account is now on line. Money will not be moved in or out of the account. It is purely on line so that bank statements can be printed and Mr Withers and Mr Baker can have an up to date view of the account.</p> <p><u>2019/28 Buildings:</u> Mr Baker will contact the DAC regarding the electrics in the Church. Action:</p> <p><u>2019/30 Forthcoming Events:</u> Some people have cancelled their request for a table. Help is needed on Saturday morning at 8.30am to put up the tables.</p> <p><u>2019/31 Any Other Business/Pet Service:</u> If there is a Pet Service in the future Fr Charles will mention it to St Thomas Tots.</p>	<p>Rev'd Sarah</p> <p>Fr David</p> <p>Mr Baker</p>
2019/35	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p><u>2019/25 Staff Report:</u> The Simple Mass would be used for families attending Baptisms.</p>	
2019/36	<p>Staff Report: This had been circulated. Rev'd Sarah had set up a Twitter account which has 79 followers. A lot of people are looking at the website. Fr David thanked Ann King for the substantial revamp of the website. He also thanked Susannah Cornwall for her work on Facebook. There is a blog starting on the website. If anyone would like to contribute to the blog they should talk to Ann. Community integration is very important to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The volunteer Churchwardens are doing well.</p>	
2019/37	<p>New Ideas:</p> <p><u>Scientists in Congregations:</u> Fr David and Mr Totterdell, as co-director of the project, and Dr N Byott are trying to arrange visits and discussions at the Met office, the Maths and Science departments at the University and also with local GPs to look at the link between</p>	

science and the Sacrament. Fr David would like people to participate, maybe not on all the visits and discussions but on an ad hoc basis. The Met office may be before Christmas and the others in the New Year. The discussions could take place in a cafe over coffee. People would need to be open and say what they think.

Christmas Worship: Fr Charles has been talking to Lars at the Lucombe Oak. He is putting on a Christmas event on 12th December from 5pm onwards. It is hoped that children from the local primary schools may be there to sing some carols. There will be a parish slot.

22nd December in the Hall at 4pm. Evening prayer with some carols, prayers and a reading.

24th December in the Hall at 4pm. Crib Service. 11.30pm Midnight Mass in the Church.

25th December in the Hall at 9.30am sung Eucharist.

29th December in the Hall 10.30am sung Eucharist. A celebration for St Thomas the Martyr.

Details of the services during Advent, Christmas and afterwards will be published.

Theika Link: Mr Totterdell had heard from the Theka Link. They would like to bring some people from the Theika Diocese to Exeter. They are looking for expressions of interest. More information is required before people can get involved. **Action:**

Mr Totterdell

2019/38

Treasurer's Report: Mr Withers had received an up to date request for Common Fund for this year, which is lower than last year. The amount is £39,773 which works out at £12.54 per participant. There are 61 participants. The Parish Giving Scheme has 25 people who give £12.37 a week on average. The average income overall is £4 - £5 per person. At the end of the year the sum of £30,000 will have been paid. We are just managing to pay the sum of £3,000 per month. The building work should be assessed before the capital is used to pay CF. The Diocese is aware of our situation and the need to keep our capital for repairs to the Church.

It was proposed by Mr Withers that the CF would be paid by instalments of £33.14 per month.

Sec: Mr P Baker

Carried:

There is a deficit of £13,000 which could be paid after a review of outgoings. There is £7,000 in the General Fund.

A paper was circulated giving details of investment opportunities for the £420,000, currently earning no interest. Money will be needed for the work on the Church. The longer the money is invested the higher the interest rate. At the moment £85,000 held in a bank account is protected by the FSCS. Mr Withers will find out if Charities are covered by the same scheme.

Action: Mr Withers

Several options were covered. There is a need for flexibility to withdraw funds when required. All or a specific amount can be invested. The Peer2Peer scheme is based on property with a 40% loan to value. It is a Westcountry based business. Investors can choose which business to invest in. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting when we may have an idea of the timescale. In the meantime the money will be put into instant access accounts spread across 2 or 3 mainstream providers.

It was proposed by Mr Withers to invest £420,000 in various instant access accounts with mainstream providers.

Sec: Mr I Totterdell

Carried:

Where and how the money will be invested will be discussed at the next PCC meeting. An extra meeting may be necessary.

2019/39

Buildings:

St Andrew: The building sold for £330,000. £320,925 was received through the Diocese.

St Thomas Church: The St Thomas CRWG has met on a couple of occasions. Work on the 2 drainpipes has been carried out by Wessex Conservation. The cost was £3,020 plus VAT. A grant of £1,300 will be received. The Finial has been repaired and placed on the parapet.

Information from the Heritage Lottery Fund had been received. It is envisaged that all the work necessary will cost in the region of £1m. The working group will look at all the information and make a decision about the application for a grant(s). The Architect, Jo

	Hibbert, will be asked to visit the Church again.	Action:	Mr Baker
2019/40	<p>Deanery Synod Report: The Rev'd Sarah reported that the Deanery Synod had met on the 22nd October at St David's Church. 50 people attended; new members of Deanery Synod were welcomed.</p> <p>The Canon Precentor of Exeter Cathedral, James Mustard spoke about the importance of psalms, especially in church worship. He was keen to emphasise their theological content and importance in enabling an emotional range of experiences to be expressed, including lament. He acknowledged that some psalms have challenging content for contemporary audiences.</p> <p>Reports were heard from General Synod and Diocesan Synod. Information was given about Bishops in Mission 2020.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to participate in both One Exeter and CTaX groups which communicated events and issues relating to church activity in Exeter.</p> <p>The Treasurer, Area Dean and Lay Chair all gave brief reports.</p> <p>Various parishes promoted events which they are running.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th Feb 2020 at St Michael's Alphington, with Ed Moffat, Diocesan Assistant Secretary as the speaker about new housing around Exeter.</p>		
2019/41	<p>Standing Items:</p> <p><u>Safeguarding:</u> Mrs Bryant reported that more people need to undergo DBS checks. No incidents have been reported. The Group now meet every quarter.</p> <p><u>Health & Safety:</u> The Electrical Survey on the Church is still outstanding. The Electrician normally used is not able to do the Survey. The Diocesan Advisory Committee will be asked if they have a list of Electricians.</p>	Action:	Mr Baker
2019/42	<p>Forthcoming Events:</p> <p>30th November 10am-1pm Christmas Fayre</p> <p>24th December 4pm Crib Service</p> <p>24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass in the Church</p> <p>25th December 9.30am Sung Eucharist</p> <p>5th January Epiphany. Usual Services</p> <p>12th January 10.30am Covenant Service at the Methodist Church</p>		
2019/43	Any Other Business: None		
2019/44	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 29th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Hall		
	The Meeting closed with THE GRACE		
	Signed Date		